

Up and Down
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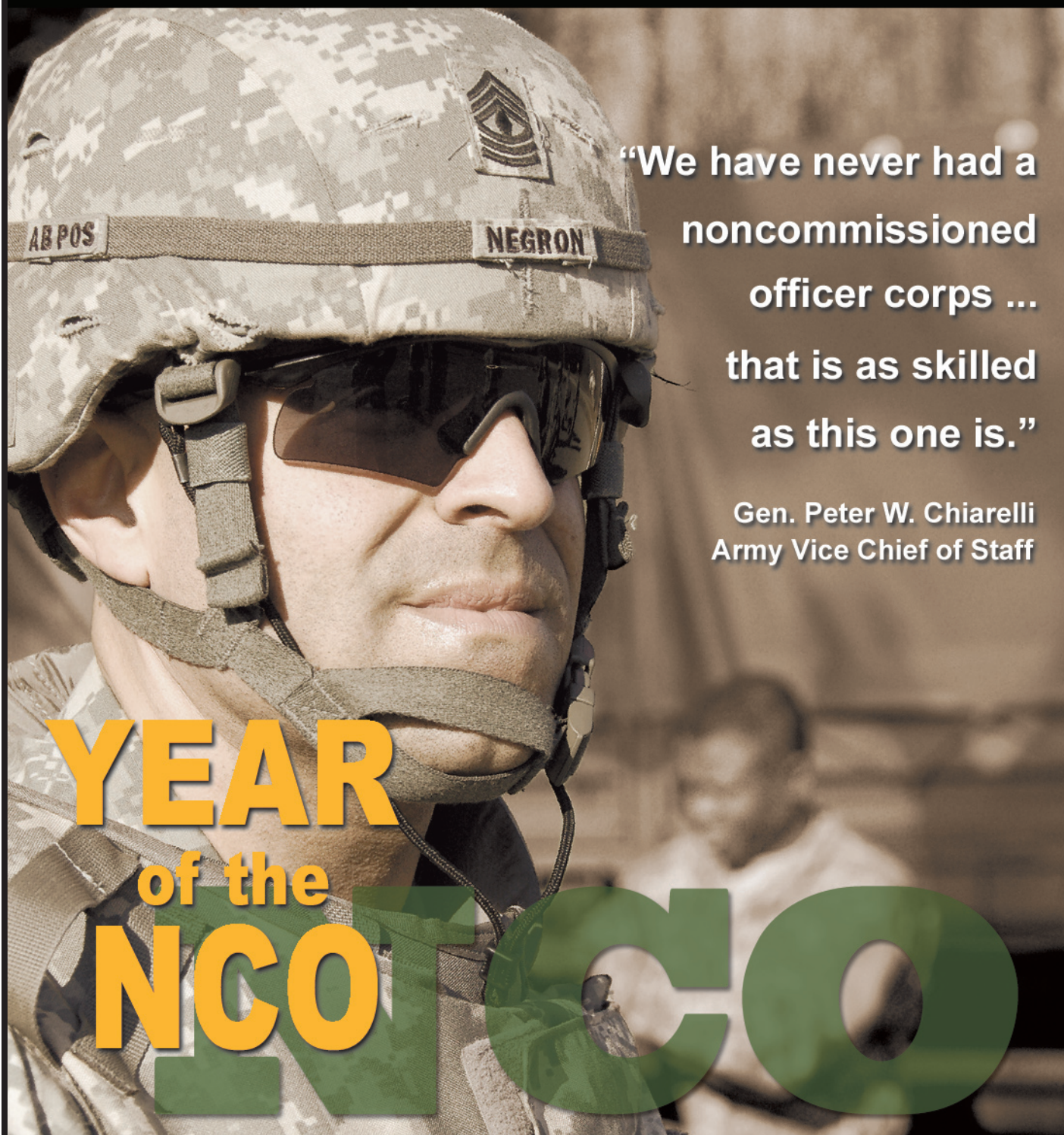
Hill



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Serving the Fort A.P. Hill Community

Feb. 13, 2009



“We have never had a
noncommissioned
officer corps ...
that is as skilled
as this one is.”

Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
Army Vice Chief of Staff

YEAR
of the
NCO

100

Supporting our nation's heroes -- the NCO!

By David San Miguel
Editor

"No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers." ...

Such begins the NCO Creed, but just what do those words mean to an installation of civilian employees absent of NCOs?

As a former NCO, I remember uttering those words when I served with the Army in the not so distant past.

These words weren't taken lightly. I can remember explaining those same words at the NCO academy or before a promotion board more than once.

Indeed, if you were to survive an encounter with an already frustrated sergeant major you had better know it ... and live it.

Nothing made these guys more livid than not knowing the Creed or all those demands expected of an NCO ... to set and enforce the standards ... to be accountable for equipment as well as of those subordinate Soldiers.

You never wanted to be caught without your leader's notebook detailing lesson plans or when was the last time you checked on the new private in the barracks.

More times than I'd like to remember there were those instances when I felt I was walking towards a firing squad when one of my Soldiers missed formation and was nowhere to be found. That was my responsibility. There were no excuses. You

had to know your troops backwards and forward. During peacetime it may be hard to fathom the importance of knowing the exact whereabouts of a subordinate.

"It's on him" ... I can hear our civilian counterparts say. But in the Army and especially during wartime, it is critical.

Yes, I remember those days as an NCO

NCOs that lead them, all I can say is that they're awesome.

Then I look at what takes place here every day.

Absent the threat of deployment, the civilian workforce here sets the standard ... is accountable ... and works hard and long to ensure that the installation's many

ranges or training facilities are prepped and ready for those thousands of Warriors who come to train. Often these employees are on the range at o'dark thirty or late at night running checks or conducting maintenance. Everything must be operational. The units expect no less. Soldiers lives depend on it.

I can only wonder how much it means to those Warriors who within a few weeks, maybe months will be expected to execute their mission against a real enemy.

But what I do know is that what we do here ... to train the Soldier, to assist the NCO in his unique mission ... will ensure their survival on the battlefield and safe return.

From that first formation to the last Soldier down range

qualifying on his assigned weapon, there is that young NCO guiding him through a functions check or helping him adjust the sights ... not only honoring the Creed, but taking care of what's important.

Remember our purpose ... remember our Soldiers ... and remember the NCOs who will lead them!



... and then I look at the young NCO today. What do we expect of him or her?

Multiple deployments, missed birthdays, family separations ... but still they rise up to accept the challenge.

Unlike previous generations, this volunteer force can expect one, two, probably a few more deployments before their initial enlistment is up. And the



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Good NCOs set pace, complete the mission

By David W. Kuhns, Sr.
Fort Lewis' Northwest Guardian

It's harder to list the qualities of a good noncommissioned officer than you might think. But everyone who has been in the Army can name NCOs they think are great.

Whether you are an officer looking back on a platoon sergeant, first sergeant or sergeant major who served as a guide, right hand or confessor; or you are an NCO yourself, looking back at the sergeants who kicked you when you needed it, steered you when they could, taught you the right way to do it, and finally turned you loose to do it all yourself, Army careers are often shaped by the NCOs met along the way.

I spent 24 years in uniform, but two NCOs stand out. They were as different as night and day, but shared the values of true professionals.

Sergeant 1st Class Johnny Hughes was my first section chief. My initial assignment in the Army was at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in the only artillery battery on post. Hughes taught me to be a Soldier. He was a quiet, soft-spoken guy - about as far as you could get from the yelling, swearing, tobacco-chewing NCO the movies had taught me to expect.

Without all the bluster and noise, Hughes demanded and got the best out of every Soldier in the section. He knew everything we did - right and wrong - and praised or corrected, on the spot. He could do anything. Whether it was showing us how to snare a rabbit in the snowy woods with strands of commo' wire, or a shortcut to computing meteorological corrections for the guns, Hughes did everything better,

faster, smarter, easier than any of us thought was possible.

If there was one lesson I took from him, it was that good NCOs have to be the absolute masters of everything their troops are asked to do.

After I left Alaska, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division where I met Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas B. Hayes, the division's top NCO. His face will always come to mind when I think of great NCOs. Hayes was not a young man. But, on the wrong side of 50, he was still one of the toughest Soldiers in the division - 'hard as woodpecker lips,' as my friends would say.

Hayes ran with a different line unit every morning. He then spent the day visiting training, wandering through motor pools, stopping by mess halls ... He was everywhere. The general commanded the division, but there was no doubt who the face of the command team was.

There was nothing mild-mannered about Hayes. I overheard him provide some pretty colorful "guidance" to individuals who failed to perform to standard. But I also saw him spend hours of his own time fixing problems for Soldiers when their unit's leaders had run into obstacles they couldn't surmount. For all his gruff exterior and intimidating aura, Hayes taught me that the needs of every Soldier are important to the performance of even the largest units.

There are lots of other Johnny Hughes and Doug Hayes in uniform today. They are the ones who set the pace, enforce the standards, get the mission done and do everything to ensure no Soldier is left behind. It may be hard to list what makes them great - but we know them when we see them.

Viewpoints

How do you define a good NCO?

Lance Cpl. Brent A. Jones

Assault Amphibious Crew Chief
2nd Assault Amphibious Battalion
Camp Lejeune, N.C.



"A good NCO always thinks ahead. He makes sure his junior Marines are taken care of and are ready for combat. He makes sure they're squared away."



2nd Lt. Anna M. Peck

Student
Basic Officer Leadership Course
Fort Lee, Va.

"A good NCO will follow the NCO Creed and the Warrior ethos. The NCO will live the Army values and instill them as well in the Warriors he or she leads."

Spc. Patrick Mentzer

Combat Medic
Lois E. Wells Health Clinic
Fort A.P. Hill



"A good NCO is a leader who takes action in the absence of orders. He or she has earned the trust and confidence of his or her superiors to ensure the troops and equipment are always ready."



John Milliken

Deputy Director
Military Support Office
Fort A.P. Hill

"A good NCO is one who takes care of his people ... that keeps them informed."

"The good NCO also recognizes and praises them for doing a good job."

Post to participate in Low Impact Development environmental study

By Gef Fisher

DPW, Environmental Division

Bill Sproul, Clean Water Act Program Manager of the Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, and his project team visited Fort A.P. Hill on Jan. 23 to discuss implementation of Low Impact Development demonstration and validation projects.

The Environmental Division here hosted the site visit which included the nationally recognized executive director of the Low Impact Development Center, Inc., Neil Weinstein.

Weinstein founded the LID Center more than 10 years ago to promote sustainable development. Through the years his group has worked with industry, government, research institutions and stakeholders in the development of LID, Green Infrastructure and Green Highways Programs.

Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Meade, Md., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., were selected to participate in the LID study to support OACSIM's development of new construction policies and program guidance related to post stormwater construction management.

The goal of this new policy is to develop a suite of standardized LID technologies to be included in the project's construction specifications.

Fort A.P. Hill will be competing for \$2.4 million dollars of special funding from the OACSIM to implement these demonstration and validation projects.

The OACSIM construction division wants to migrate from traditional stormwater control structures, such as the large management ponds currently used and implement LID technologies to manage the stormwater runoff at the project site. Because of the large footprint generally associated with stormwater management ponds, valuable real estate is required to construct these controls to meet local, state and federal compliance requirements. LID controls require less space and rely heavily on conservation landscaping

practices. By implementing LID and other associated best management practices, the Army will save space and money while maintaining compliance with environmental water quality regulations.

The new construction policy establishes guidance that requires all new Army construction starting in Fiscal Year 2013 to incorporate LID technologies into its projects' design.

This will not only meet stormwater compliance requirements, but will also comply with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Section 438 of the Act requires all new federal construction projects with a building footprint of 5,000 square feet or greater to design and construct appropriate controls to manage stormwater runoff on-site. Simply put, this means that every time it rains, all the stormwater runoff will be managed on-site and there will be no negative downstream impacts such as soil erosion.

During the site visit, Wilcox Camp was designated as the top candidate to implement several different types of LID technologies followed by the Longstreet Camp.

Wilcox has deep ditches and drainage swales located in the rear of the camp. These are good candidates for constructing rain gardens, bio-retention cells and clustered islands of conservation oriented landscaping.

The Longstreet Camp has gutters and downspouts on most buildings which lends itself to incorporating cisterns, landscaped treatment drains and converting the large concrete stormwater channel running through the middle of the camp to a more natural vegetative channel.

Fort A.P. Hill will be notified by late spring of their share of the funding.

These demonstration projects are scheduled to be constructed by mid-summer 2009.

For more information on LID, go to <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/index.html> and http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/.



Initial construction and site work associated with the Beaverdam Pond LID parking lot.



LID project approximately 50 percent complete.



The new LID parking lot nears completion. Stormwater runoff from this project site was significantly reduced when compared to a traditional impervious asphalt parking lot of similar size.

Local VIPS tour post

Community leaders taste military life

By Lance Cpl. Casey Jones
2nd Marine Division PAO

Local council members, county officials, and Marines with the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, gathered here Jan. 29 to get a brief taste of military life and to highlight the importance of training at Fort A.P. Hill.

"Seeing what goes on at the installation has personally given me a better understanding of military life," said Gregory Killough, the superintendent of Caroline County schools.

To demonstrate how service members live and train, the guests were given a tour of the post and had the opportunity to eat a Meals-Ready-to-Eat lunch.

"The MRE was actually pretty good," Killough said. "It was much better than what I would've ever thought."

All of the guests and service members in attendance agreed the installation plays a crucial role in training today's Warriors.

"I think the training at Fort A.P. Hill is very valuable," said Gary Skinner, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel and a member of the Spotsylvania County

Board of Supervisors.

"Being a former Marine and knowing the value of going into combat ready, this is the type of material we need to have our young troops learn," he said. "So whenever they do go into a combat situation, they can have the confidence that they will take over the enemy."

Skinner explained.

"You would never put your young son in a car before he knows how to drive, so we should never put any of our young people in combat until they are ready to go," he said.

The visitors also used the opportunity to discuss any concerns they had about the installation's operations and training.

The concern most voiced by the group was the noise, but that to them was still considered minor.

"Sometimes the installation will receive a noise complaint and we try to mitigate complaints by holding gatherings and meetings like this to discuss when and where we're going to be conducting training," said Christopher Joyner, public affairs officer.

See VIPs, page 6



Mayor David Storke of Bowling Green attempts to heat his MRE during a recent visit to the post. The Installation Community Council toured Fort A.P. Hill to gain a better understanding of the facilities and training offered here to prepare Warriors for combat.



(Photos by David San Miguel)

A Marine captain with the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion shares his unit's perspectives on training at Fort A.P. Hill with the group of visiting dignitaries. His unit has been identified to deploy to Iraq sometime in March.

Motorists advised to take caution when driving in winter

The recent snowfall and icy weather conditions which caused havoc on the roadways should have alerted installation motorists to use common sense when traveling this winter.

Motorists are cautioned to drive slower when the roads are wet or icy.

Motorists are also advised to increase their following distance and give the driver in front that extra room should he/she decide to stop suddenly.

When trying to slow down or stop, tap on the brakes gently instead of slamming them hard. An abrupt stop may cause one to skid and lose control of the vehicle.

Here are more tips to help motorists safely negotiate the roadways this season:

Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving conditions.

Inspect your brakes and tires and replace them as needed.

Check to make sure the battery and ignition systems are functioning properly.

Inspect the thermostat and replace the antifreeze according to the vehicle owner's manual.

Inspect and replace windshield wipers that show wear and tear. Refill the de-icing washer fluid.

Inspect headlights, tail and brake lights, blinkers and emergency flashers to ensure they're in good working order.

Inspect your exhaust system, heater and defroster.

Check and replace engine fluids, i.e. oil, brake and transmission fluids as appropriate according to the owner's manual.

Lubricate door locks that may be prone to freezing.

Keep car windows, mirrors and lights clear of snow and ice.

Always wear your seat belt.

Allow yourself a little extra time to get to your destination and leave a little earlier.

Start out slowly in the lowest gear recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer.

Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots, bridges and highway overpasses.

Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road.

Resist passing a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary. Treat these vehicles as you would an emergency response vehicle.

Don't park alongside the street.

Snowplow drivers can't fully clear a road if vehicles are parked in the way.

Always keep an emergency winter driving kit in your vehicle.

Drive Smart! Stay Alive!

VIPs

continued from page 5

Skinner added that it's this two-way communication that makes for a better relationship.

"We work together," he said. "We don't have a lot of problems with the noise because we all know how important the train-

ing is. I think we can solve any problem with effective communications."

After their MRE lunch, the visiting dignitaries were given a window tour to the Faulkenburg Urban Operations Training Center to include the Embassy, the Shoot

House and the After Action Review facility; the Air Assault Airfield and the Engagement Skills Training facility where they were allowed to fire weapons at "insurgents" as part of a simulated combat scenario.



(Photo by David San Miguel)

ICC members match their skills against a simulated enemy while touring through the Engagement Skills Training facility.

The EST offers Warriors marksmanship training opportunities in a controlled setting without expending live ammunition.



Photos by David San Miguel

Robert Deas, team leader, United Kingdom, adjusts a non-linear junction detector device his team will evaluate to locate mines or unexploded ordnance.

Matt Angle and Alex Murcia from Non-Intrusive Inspection Technology, NIITEK, demonstrate the vehicle's ultra-wideband ground penetrating radar technology designed to detect buried explosives.



MINES

Scientists converge to evaluate new technologies to detect, neutralize IED threat, casualties

By David San Miguel
Editor

Media accounts of U.S. military personnel getting killed or maimed by Improvised Explosive Devices are constant.

According to Department of Defense Personnel and Military Casualty statistics, IEDs account for 70 percent of all combat casualties in Iraq and 50 percent in Afghanistan.

Unexploded ordnance and mines left after a conflict account for an additional 5,000 deaths worldwide each year, 50 percent of which are children.

It's with these grim statistics in mind that scientists from 11 NATO countries converged at Fort A.P. Hill to test new technology to minimize these threats. The participants came from Belgium, Canada, France,

Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and the United States.

Tom Broach, chief scientist, Countermine Division, Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, out of Fort Belvoir, explained that four teams were assembled to evaluate commercial off-the-shelf technologies that could be further developed to detect and neutralize IEDs.

He added that the installation's Countermine Development Site was chosen largely because the facilities are large enough to conduct multiple tests simultaneously and because its staff has extensive field experience operating and maintaining all types of countermine equipment and in handling mines used throughout the world today.

Army prepared for inaugural contingencies

WASHINGTON -- As the nation prepared to welcome a new president, the Army stood ready to assist civilian law enforcement and first responders inside the National Capital Region.

Though military participation during the inauguration was largely ceremonial -- a full 2/3 of military members were involved in the parade or other ceremonial events and another 2,500 military members were on standby to provide support if things went wrong.

Servicemembers from the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard all participated in the inauguration as part of Joint Force Headquarters - National Capitol Region.

The JFHQ-NCR acts as a single point of contact between the armed forces and civilian law enforcement, first responders

and other federal response agencies in the capital region.

Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe Jr., Commanding General, JFHQ-NCR and the Military District of Washington, said JFHQ-NCR provides a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive consequence management capability to inaugural events, including the Marine's Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The general said the 7,500 servicemembers in JFHQ-NCR provide ceremonial and specific DOD capability support to federal agencies in charge of inaugural events, as well as other consequence management requirements should something happen that causes people to be injured.

Rowe said the JFHQ-NCR is ready

to provide whatever support is needed -- mostly because servicemembers have practiced for the many possibilities that could happen.

"Every two weeks, we have a tabletop exercise that takes a look at our region, takes a look at a situation: infrastructure collapse, train derailment, power outage, loss of communications, an incident within the metro area, crowd control and management, medical incidents or contaminants," he said.

"You have to force yourself not only to think through what some people might say is the unthinkable -- but to think of what combinations of things could happen," he said. "We are very well prepared. We are ready to do a wonderful event. I believe our head is in this, we are committed to this, and we are prepared."

(Army News Service)

New administration sets agenda for Veteran care

By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama has promised to deliver the care and benefits the nation's military veterans deserve while transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization, according to an administration agenda posted on the White House Web site.

"Keeping faith with those who serve must always be a core American value and a cornerstone of American patriotism," Obama said during a speech April 2007 in Kansas City, Mo. "Because America's commitment to its servicemen and women begins at enlistment, and it must never end."

Obama, who served on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, plans to reverse the 2003 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans into the VA system, allowing all veterans the opportunity for care, according to the agenda on veterans. The administration also plans to

continue the fight to end employment discrimination for Guardsmen and Reservists.

Additionally, the administration aims to improve the process of transitioning from active duty to civilian life for military members leaving the service or returning from deployment. To improve the benefit decision system, the administration will look at hiring additional claims workers with an improved accountability and training criteria, according to the agenda.

Also, the administration plans to launch new programs and expand proven programs to prevent homelessness among veterans, as well as to explore the possibility of a national "zero tolerance" policy to ensure no veterans end up on the streets.

As they work to make VA a national leader in health care reform, the agenda says, administration officials will explore ways to improve mental health studies, polytrauma care, prosthetics development, spinal cord injury treatment and women's health.



(Photo by David San Miguel)

Post supports inauguration

Alfred Spurlock, warehouse material handler, loads up a pallet of cots -- ready for issue to requesting organizations.

According to Warren Hills, Jr., property book warehouse supervisor, his staff worked overtime issuing more than 2,500 cots and 140 tables to 14 military and civilian agencies supporting the various presidential inaugural activities.